

Department of Correction Awarded Big Grant to Protect Offenders and Communities

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Commissioner, J. David Donahue

Indianapolis, Indiana - (February 23, 2007) - The Indiana Department of Correction has been awarded a grant for \$630,386.00 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The Protect Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Grant will provide funding for Global Position System (GPS) of 100 violent sex offenders, developing a Prison Rape Oversight Group and installing upgraded technology to promote safety in prisons.

"We are very excited to launch several key pilot initiatives throughout the state to as a result of the funding we received," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "The GPS year-long pilot project is especially of interest and we are confident that it will provide additional security measures for the local counties. It's another step towards promoting public safety."

The Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring has been approved for 100 high risk sex offender parolees. The monitoring will be overseen by local Community Corrections Agencies in Allen, St. Joseph and Vanderburgh counties and paid for by the Department of Correction. The DOC will be responsible for payment to Community Corrections for the monitoring, response, and supervision of the violent sex offenders and reporting of violations by parole agents.

These counties were selected because each currently provides continuous monitoring technology which can easily integrate with the GPS system.

Last year, Senate Bill 6 was passed by lawmakers that mandated all violent sex offenders released from prison to parole, be constantly supervised.

Susan Hancock, Director of Community Corrections in St. Joseph county, said, "GPS technology can track an offender's every move and alert monitors and law enforcements officials when the offender

enters an exclusion zone. These zones encompass county lines, surrounding parks, schools, daycares, a victim's home and place of employment."

The Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Grant also pays for a regional training for 5,000 people state-wide in parole, Community Corrections, probation, Department staff and volunteers to address the prison violence zero-tolerance policy.

Additionally, the DOC will be hosting a summit focusing on prevention, detection, treatment and prosecution of Sexual Violence in Prison on April 10, 2007 at the Indiana War Memorial. Legislators, sheriffs, and corrections professionals from around the state will attend the summit.

"Sexual violence in prisons is a nationwide issue and the Indiana Department of Correction is committed to leading the efforts in promoting a safe and secure environment for staff and offenders," added Donahue. "By providing training and resources for correctional employees, law enforcement, and communities, we can provide a resolution for this problem, together."

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.